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the demolition of a house are contained in the law on "Volkshuisvesting" (inclosure No. 3 in separate cover), pages 71 to 80. In short, the provisions are as follows: When it has been decided by the city government that a building is unfit to live in and unfit for any other purpose and therefore has to be demolished, the owner is reimbursed to the amount of the appraised value of the lot on which the building stands and the appraised value of the building material from which the house is constructed. A tenant who has to vacate a dwelling to be demolished is reimbursed to the amount of four times the rent for the period for which he has rented, not to exceed the rent for one year. A tenant who rented the dwelling he has vacated by the week is reimbursed by the city authorities to the amount of four times the weekly rent.

AUSTRALIA.

Report from Melbourne—Plague in Brisbane—Western Australia free from plague.

Consul-General Bray forwards the following received from Alfred D. Larkin, department of external affairs, Melbourne:

Melbourne, February 16, 1904: In continuation of my telegram of the 12th of February I have the honor to inform you that another case of plague was discovered in Brisbane on the 13th instant.

February 17, 1904: I have the honor to inform you that the State of Western Australia has been declared free from plague, the last case having occurred on the 4th November, 1903.

February 19, 1904: In continuation of my letter of the 16th February, I have the honor to inform you that a fourth case of plague was reported at Brisbane on the 17th instant.

Report from Sydney.

Leprosy in New South Wales for the year 1901.

The following is taken from the report by Dr. Ashburton Thompson, chief medical officer of the Government and president of the board of health:

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH, *Sydney, December 31, 1903.*

On January 1, 1901, 11 persons remained under detention at the lazaret.

During the year 10 persons were reported to the board under the leprosy act, 1890, as being suspected lepers, and of these 9 were ultimately admitted to the lazaret under warrants which were issued by the board after careful inquiry into each case.

Five patients died during the year; 2 were natives of New South Wales of European descent; 1 a native of Fiji of European descent; 1 a native of Tanna (New Hebrides), and 1 a female Chinese.

Thus the number remaining in the lazaret on December 31, 1901, was 15 persons; 9 were whites, 5 of whom were natives of New South Wales of European descent, 1 was a native of Germany, 2 were natives of England, and 1 was a native of the United States of America. Of the colored lepers, 1 was a Javanese, 4 were natives of China, and 1 a native of Aoba Island, New Hebrides.